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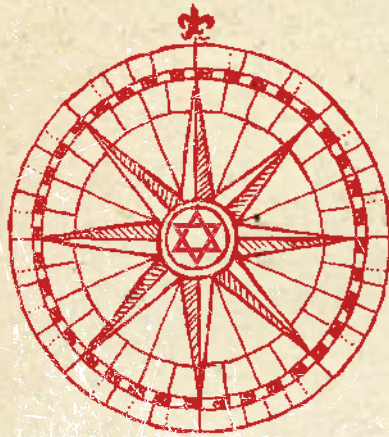
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THE JEWISH DIASPORASCAPE IN THE STRAITS

AN ETHNOGRAPHIC STUDY OF
JEWISH BUSINESSES ACROSS BORDERS

The Straits is the waterway region that divides Indonesia, Singapore and Malaysia, with adjacent port cities like the Straits Settlements, Penang, Melaka and Singapore and on the Indonesian side, Jakarta and Surabaya. Jewish presence in this region is highly contested. By means of three in-depth business case studies; the diamond trade, the fashion business and the speciality coffee retail business, it is investigated how Jewish entrepreneurs build and operate their networks. Despite, or maybe because of the many popular ideas concerning Jews and their businesses, their networks have remained understudied. With the introduction of the concept of a Jewish Diasporascape, this study avoids the obvious dangerous pitfall of reductionism studying Jewish networks. It calls for allowing complexities, and the appliance of a multi-disciplinary and critical realist approach. At the same time, it provides a thorough insight into the routes and anchorages of a small Diaspora community.

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